

## BOOK REVIEW

FRANK P. BROOKS, EDITOR: *Gastrointestinal Pathophysiology*, second edition. New York, Oxford University Press, 1978. 426 pp. \$16.95.

IN this era of bulky and costly medical monographs it is a pleasure to review one which is relatively inexpensive, concise, well organized, and authoritative. The stimulus for this book, now in its second edition, is the perceived need to correlate with disease states basic concepts of normal and disturbed gastrointestinal physiology and the application of these principles to diagnosis, understanding, and treatment of disorders of the digestive tract. This concept is a common goal of teachers of preclinical sciences but it has all too often eluded their grasp. In this monograph, Dr. Brooks achieves remarkable success in attaining this objective, assisted by 15 able collaborators. Evenness in the presentation is a tribute to skillful editing, facilitated by the fact that all of the collaborators are members of the faculty of the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. The standardized format consisting of definition, symptoms and signs, etiology, pathophysiological significance, diagnostic considerations, and therapeutic recommendations makes for ease of reading and reference use. The language of the text is sparse, to the point, and comprehensive. References are adequate without being overwhelming and are up to date and well selected. The reputation of most of the co-authors is well established and their critical appraisals of new and emerging information adds much to the strength of the volume.

Not too many years ago, it would have been impossible to accomplish the task Dr. Brooks and his collaborators set for themselves, largely because of the paucity of basic science research endeavors in gastroenterology and weakness in facilities, personnel, and funding. This book is a tribute to major contributions to clinical medicine made by basic scientists collaborating with clinical investigators who, together, have succeeded in making over a largely empiric clinical specialty into one with a sound scientific base and a bright future. A vast amount of ground is covered in this small volume and I am certain that each of us could find an area of omission or inadequate coverage in some special area. On the whole, I find this monograph an excellent addition to my library and a superb *vade*

*mecum* of gastrointestinal pathophysiology. It is a must for every medical student and all who have an interest in the correlation of basic physiology with clinical medicine.

In dedicating this book to his revered mentor, Dr. T. Grier Miller, founder of the Gastrointestinal Section of the University of Pennsylvania, Doctor Brooks pays a well deserved tribute to a pioneer who laid the groundwork for his institution's major contributions to the specialty of gastroenterology.

MICHAEL J. LEPORE, M.D.